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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except AT, US*): NOVARTIS AG [CH/CH]; Lichtstrasse 35, CH-4056 Basel (CH).
- (71) Applicant (*for AT only*): NOVARTIS PHARMA GMBH [AT/AT]; Brunner Strasse 59, A-1230 Vienna (AT).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): SUSA SPRING, Mira [CH/CH]; Markircherstrasse 34, CH-4055 Basel (CH). ZAMUROVIC, Natasa [YU/CH]; Allschwilerstrasse 6, CH-4055 Basel (CH).
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(54) Title: GENE EXPRESSION ASSOCIATED WITH OSTEOBLAST DIFFERENTIATION

(57) Abstract: The present invention identifies genes whose expression pattern is altered when preosteoblastic cells undergo differentiation into mature osteoblasts. The genes identified may be used as markers for the differentiation process. The present invention also provides methods to screen agents that are capable of modulating the differentiation process. The present invention also provides methods of identifying therapeutic agents that stimulate bone formation by analyzing the expression of one or more of the genes identified.